**Civil War Diary Project**

This project helps students with research, writing, and art skills.

Objective: To create a civil war diary as if they are a person who lived during the civil war, for example a drummer boy, President Lincoln or a field nurse.

Skills Used: Research skills using computers, writing skills using narrative text, and writing from another perspective. These are all 5th grade core objectives.

Materials:

Research fact sheet

Diary Outline Sheets

Civil War Grading Rubric

Scrapbook paper (used for front and back cover)

Newsprint paper (enough for each student to have 8 sheets)

Computers / Books (for research)

Markers, pens buttons odds and ends to make them look old

Timeframe:

2-3 Weeks with (3) 45 minutes sessions per week.

Procedure:

Explain what a diary is and why it is important to keep a diary or a journal. Also explain that, that is one way that we were able to find history was through diaries and journals kept by people throughout time. You may even want to show some primary source examples of diary and journal entries. We have many examples in the books we have been given. I use the example of Lewis and Clark and the journal they kept for Thomas Jefferson as an example.

Week I

Hand out the research fact sheet and begin research and select person explain to students that they are going to take on the role of this person for this activity and this usually takes a week.

Week II

Students begin writing their entries on the entries outline sheets. I model a diary entry for them and have them complete the first 5 entries then edit with them. I have them do at least 20 entries and they need to be dated during the time of the civil war.

Week III

During this time they are creating their diaries and transferring their notes into their diaries.

I adjust the number of entries for my resource students.

I use the civil war rubric diary rubric for grading.